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Fake news *vs* genuine article

University of Toronto librarians Eveline Houtman, left, and Heather Buchansky have developed a guide to help students spot fake news. GEOFFREY VENDEVILLE/ COURTESY OF UOFT NEWS

MEDIA MANIPULATION

If you believed Trudeau is Castro's son, these librarians can help you out

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is Fidel Castro's long-lost illegitimate son.

Barack Obama wants to get rid of the Statue of Liberty.

Those are just some examples of the fake headlines that have become all too common on social media sites like Facebook.

But don't worry. If you've ever been fooled by a phony news story, the librarians at the University of Toronto have your back.

Librarians Heather Buchansky and Eveline Houtman have developed a simple guide to help students — and the public — figure out whether the news they're reading is the genuine article.

Buchansky recommends looking at the domain name. When sites end in unusual ways, such as ".com.co," it's a clue they may be fake.

When in doubt there are a few handy websites that can help verify stories and sources, such as: FactCheck.org, PolitiFact, and Snopes.

Buchansky said response to the guide has been positive, even if "it hasn't spread as far as fake news itself."

Ryerson University journalism professor Gavin Adamson said many fake news websites "don't stand up to due diligence."

The problem of fake news was brought to the fore during the U.S. election, when a barrage of bogus stories confounded voters looking for information.

A recent study out of Stanford University also found high school and college students were unable to tell the difference between fake news stories and real ones.

Both Google and Facebook have been under fire for circulating phony news, and have announced measures to curb the amount of misleading content they host.

> **If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.**
> Jeffrey Dvorkin

For Jeffrey Dvorkin, lecturer and director of the journalism program at the University of Toronto Scarborough, fake news isn't a new problem; even before the Internet, some tabloid newspapers would publish "quasi-real" stories, he said.

But that doesn't mean it shouldn't be taken seriously.

"We shouldn't freak out and figure the sky is falling, although the clouds are a bit lower than they used to be," he said.

Plus **How to avoid being scammed and spammed**
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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

The Obamas are celebrating their last Christmas in the White House. **World**

Building a kid-friendly city

The City of Toronto's new Raising the Village initiative aims to make the city more friendly for children and families. The program, developed in partnership with the Toronto Child and Family Network, comes mere weeks after Toronto was declared the child poverty capital of Canada. Urban expert Gil Penalosa, chair of 8-80 Cities, says that if Toronto wants to shed that title, it will have to redesign the city with its youngest residents in mind. **Here's how:**

1. LOWER SPEED LIMITS
Safer streets means more opportunities for children to walk, cycle and play. Penalosa says the speed limit along all residential streets in Toronto should be lowered to 30 km/h. "That's what cities who care about children do," he said.

2. MORE PLAYGROUNDS
Penalosa believes children must have access to playgrounds within walking distance in order to develop important cognitive and social skills. "If it means closing down some roads to build a small park in a neighbourhood, so be it," he said.

3. IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC TRANSIT
Toronto could add more fun to its transit system, Penalosa said. Painting the walls with colourful art or adding entertaining features could make transit "more attractive" to children, helping them be less reliant on cars.

4. OPPORTUNITIES TO CYCLE AND WALK
Bicycling and walking "are the most favourite modes of transportation for kids, no matter their social status," said Penalosa. By building more protected bike lanes, Toronto will make it safer for children to walk or bike to school, or anywhere else they need to go.

5. FAMILY-FOCUSED HOUSING
Toronto should have mandatory zoning regulations requiring developers to provide a minimum number of family-sized units in any new building, said Penalosa. "We can't continue to fill our city with studios and small rooms for single people," he said, warning such trends push parents and kids into the suburbs.

Auditor general targets Metrolinx

SPENDING

She says transit agency hired firm despite faulty work

The GTA's transit agency is off the rails in policing mistakes and delays by contractors while Ontario's highways have a crack problem — all costing taxpayers millions, says auditor general Bonnie Lysyk.

Her annual report took the government to task for faulty asphalt and Metrolinx for rehiring a construction company that she said installed a truss upside down in the Pickering GO pedestrian bridge over Highway 401.

"It's hard to believe, isn't it?" the auditor told a news conference Wednesday, singling out the company for errors in building a stairwell and sloppy welding that ruined $1 million in glass on the bridge.

Raw edges around an opening in the metallic cladding are part of the unfinished work on Pickering's pedestrian bridge, which opened two years ago. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The same firm, which Lysyk did not name, was given a $39 million contract to build a new GO and Union-Pearson Express station on Bloor just east of Dundas.

"That company should not get another contract," said New Democrat MPP Catherine Fife (Kitchener-Waterloo). "This is, seriously, not rocket science."

That company should not get another contract.
Catherine Fife

Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca said he has asked his staff to develop an "urgent action plan" within 60 days on problems flagged by the auditor.

Lysyk said pavement is supposed to last 15 years but sections of Highway 7 and 403, for example, have had to be resurfaced in a year or two — with the unnamed company on the 403 still getting $686,000 in bonuses.

The trouble was identified 16 years ago — diluted asphalt can't withstand cold winter weather — yet oversight of testing of samples is lax, leading to tampering, auditors found. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ENVIRONMENT

Cap and trade plan could hamper efforts: Lysyk

Ontario will "take the credit" for emission reductions in Quebec and California under its plan for a shared cap-and-trade system — reductions that will make up 80 per cent of the government's greenhouse gas targets, says the auditor general.

That leaves just 3.8 megatonnes in reduced emissions — of the projected 18.7 — that will actually happen here in Ontario by 2020, with the remainder coming from the two jurisdictions, said Bonnie Lysyk.

Because the province hopes to link its system with the others, it allows polluters to purchase additional emission permits from outside the province if available, often at lower costs, on top of the permits the government provides.

That could hamper conservation efforts here, she warns.

"What we encourage in this report is that all the decision-makers just need to make sure that all aspects of a big initiative like this are being thought about because the consequences of not having a good plan in place and a clear understanding with everybody is that there might be more financial consequences for Ontarians than would be expected," Lysyk told reporters. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A shared cap-and-trade system could allow polluters to purchase more emissions permits. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

AIRPORT

Pearson needs help with traffic woes

Toronto's Pearson International Airport — already Canada's busiest — is on track to become an elite "mega hub" but it's going to take federal investments to help make it happen, a new report says.

The operators of Pearson are appealing for assistance to solve the traffic woes that clog area highways and, within the terminals, new funding to eliminate backlogs at security checkpoints and customs and immigration inspections.

And they want Ottawa to rethink visa demands that currently deter some international travellers from using Toronto to make connections.

The report, prepared for the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, argues that those investments will pay off, putting Pearson in position to capitalize on growing air travel and double its annual passenger traffic to 80 million a year by 2035. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Woman sustains life-threatening injuries in fire

A woman pulled from a burning North York bungalow Wednesday afternoon has been rushed to hospital without vital signs. Toronto Fire Service Capt. David Eckerman said emergency crews were called around 3:43 p.m. to 177 Elmhurst Ave. She was rushed to hospital with no vital signs, according to Toronto Police Services and paramedics said her injuries were life-threatening. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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The power of words

Everyday Political Citizens

Harpreet Gill helping make a big difference

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Growing up near Jane and Finch — one of Toronto's most low-income neighbourhoods — Harpreet Gill never felt like politics was for her.

"The community I grew up in, we've always been neglected, and I didn't see the point of being civically engaged," the 28-year-old social worker says.

That changed last year, when she met a professor at York University who convinced her to join a 'get out the vote' campaign in her area.

"He told me that for us to hold politicians accountable we need to first put them into positions where we can make them accountable," she said. "Those words changed my perception."

Gill began talking with local youth and encouraging them to vote during the federal election.

If the results are any indication, she was pretty persuasive.

"Our goal was one per cent, but we got a seven per cent increase in voter turnout. It was phenomenal," she said.

EDUARDO LIMA

ABOUT THIS SERIES

EVERY YEAR, Samara Canada's Everyday Political Citizen project honours Canadians making positive changes in their communities.

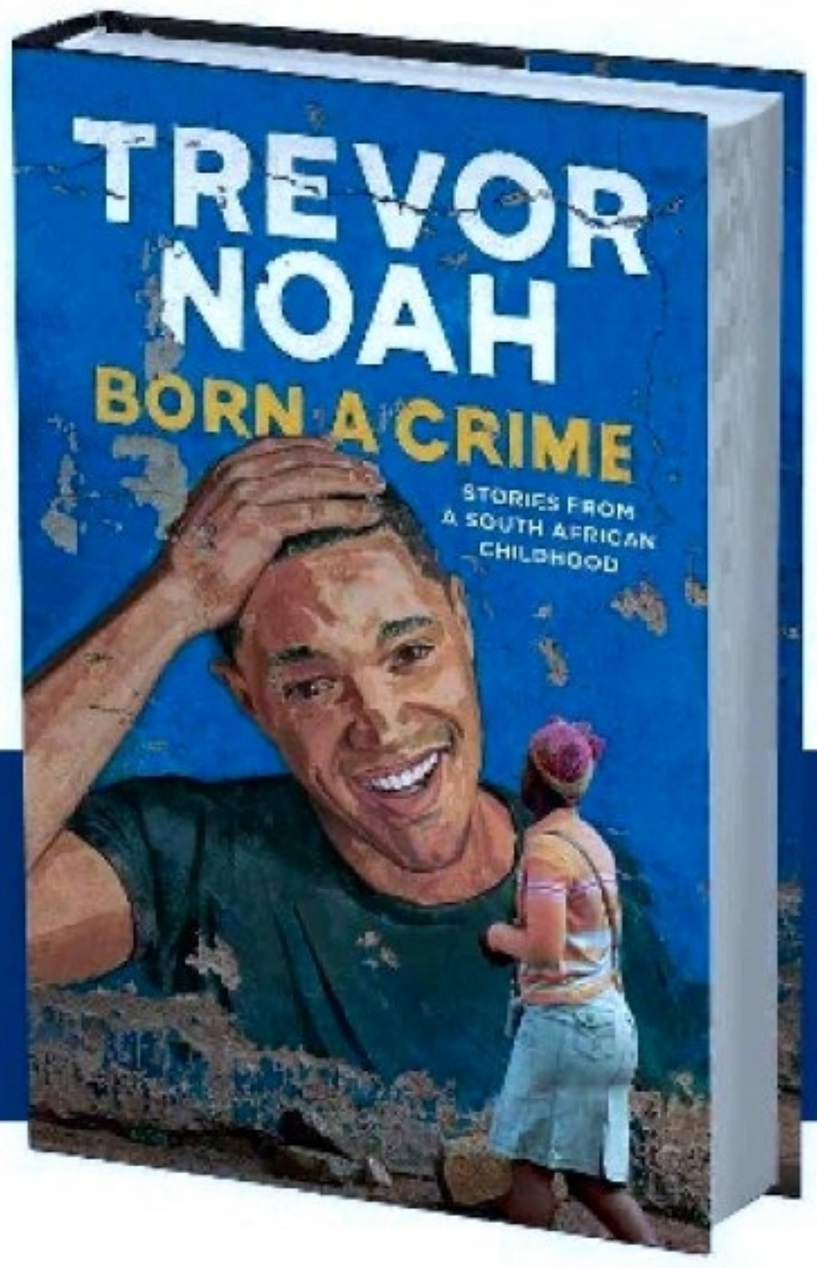
The winner of the 2016 contest will be announced Dec. 8.

Metro is profiling the seven GTA nominees.

Seeing her peers speak up at the ballot box made Gill feel like the change she wants to see in her community is actually possible.

Her efforts have garnered a nomination as one of Samara Canada's Everyday Political Citizens for 2016. Gill says she's not one to seek out the spotlight, but she hopes the extra attention will help others in her community see the connection between politics and the policies that impact their lives.

"I hope they can look at me and say 'she grew up with us, she's been through the same struggles, and now she's doing something to make change in our community.'"



"Incisive, funny and vivid...
[Noah's] electrifying memoir sparkles."
—Booklist

By turns charming, dramatic and deeply affecting, *Born a Crime* is the story of a mischievous young boy's coming of age: from apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show*.

MEET TREVOR NOAH
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Parts of harbour unsafe for use

WATER QUALITY

High E. coli levels probably from sewage overflow

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Environmental advocates are sounding the alarm about harmful levels of E. coli bacteria in Toronto's inner harbour.

Lake Ontario Waterkeeper, a local environmental charity, collected 166 samples of water from various sites along the city's lakeshore. At least four locations had E. coli levels far above what's considered safe for swimming or even boating.

Officials with the organization say the city's sewage system, which sporadically pours raw waste into the lake, may be to blame.

"We know that the city of Toronto has a sewage management problem, the city knows it as well," said Waterkeeper president Krystyn Tully.

Tests on nine harbourfront locations where pipes with sewage flow into Lake Ontario were funded by an Indiegogo campaign, and will form the basis of a new report released in a few weeks.

While the results are concerning, Tully stressed once you get away from the "problem spots" the harbour water quality is quite good.

"What we've found is that most of the harbour is probably a lot better than people think," she said.

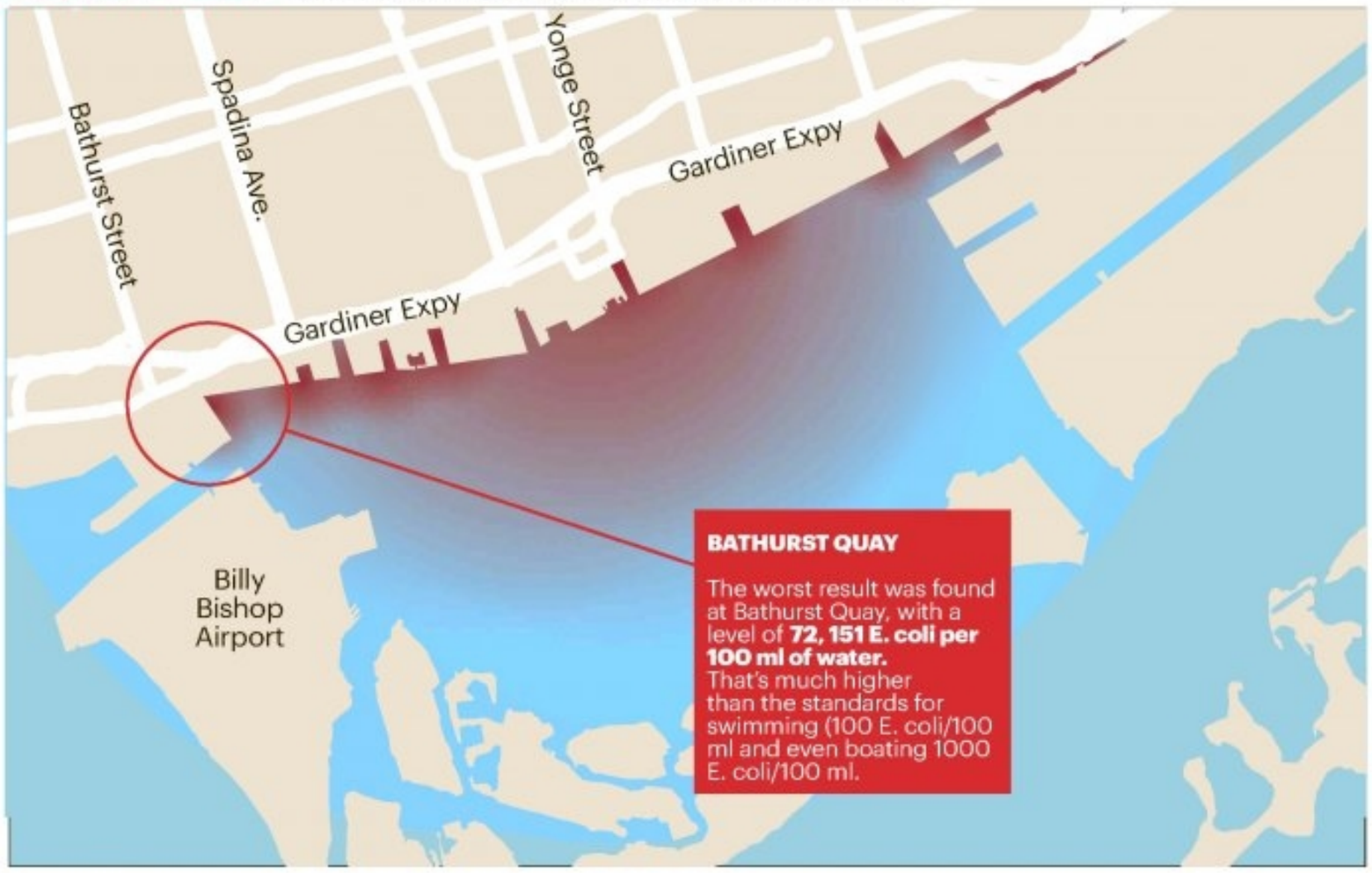
However, Tully said the tests show that water quality near the shore can fluctuate "rapidly and significantly." As a result, she believes more routine water testing in the harbour is needed.

Lou Di Gironimo, General Manager of Toronto Water said the city is aware of the "near shore issue," and there are a number of projects that have been greenlit to deal with it.

This includes a massive project — slated to start next year — to build large tunnels in the harbour to intercept sewer overflow move it towards the Ashbridges Bay treatment plant.

Di Gironimo said monitoring water quality in the harbour falls outside of the city's jurisdiction.

MAPPED Lake Ontario Waterkeepers conducted independent tests of water quality at nine spots along the inner Toronto Harbour



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It's been nearly a week, but it's still Black Friday at many stores at Toronto's Eaton Centre. Never-ending sales may be good news for shoppers, but they're making it difficult for small boutiques in the city to compete. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's still Black Friday

DISCOUNT SHOPPING

While it's great for shoppers, it's not so great for boutiques

Nichole Jankowski
For Metro
THE RETAIL INSIDER

Slept through last weekend and worried you missed the best deals of the season? Fear not wearisome shopper, there's another two, three, maybe more, months of sales to look forward to.

It used to be that winter sales started shortly before Boxing Day, followed by a second markdown, or third if it was a particularly difficult season, before stock was shipped out at the end of January.

Now it's end-of-season almost all season.

In Canada, the percentage of apparel sold on sale was 67 per cent last year, up from 55 per cent in 2010, according to The Globe and Mail.

Increasingly, markdowns are built into the business model. For consumers, this seems like a win, but there is one big loser in this equation: smaller boutiques.

Christina Pretti, co-owner of the contemporary clothing and print shop Soop Soop on Dundas West, says it's a constant battle with clients' "ability to comparison shop from the palm of their hand while they're in the store."

Department stores can demand an upfront discount from vendors because of quantities and the prestige that comes with being stocked in their store, says Pretti, which gives them an edge on discounting.

"We haven't been able to find a way around it because people ask us to price match," says Pretti. "You have to always be on the lookout because if you carry a brand that someone else carries, as soon as they put it on sale your opportunity to sell it is kind of toast. You have to follow suit, you have no choice. It forces you to discount as well."

Pretti tries to stay competitive by stocking brands that can't be found elsewhere in the city, but unfortunately "it's not just someone in your own town you're competing with, it's a shop in Australia who can ship for free."

"It's the Wild West right now," agrees Jesar Gabino, co-owner and head buyer of menswear boutique Nomad. He points to countries like France where the period for "soldes" are set by the government, not corporations; whereas in North America, it's a free-for-all that could put independent retailers out of business.

"A customer can go to so many places to purchase the same item that the power is now in the hands of the consumer," says Gabino. "They're starting to understand that if they wait long enough, that one item that they wanted will eventually go on sale."

CITY HALL

Tory's right-hand woman to start new job at Navigator

The woman who has spoken for John Tory since the 2014 election campaign is handing the mayoral megaphone to a former Toronto Sun city hall reporter.

Amanda Galbraith, Tory's amiable 33-year-old communications director and his frequent shadow at public events, is leaving to become a principal at Navigator Ltd., Canada's best-known crisis communications firm.

She will be replaced by Don Peat who covered Rob Ford's chaotic mayoralty for the Toronto Sun and the early days of Tory's administration.

Amanda Galbraith
TWITTER

Peat starts Monday and Galbraith finishes Dec. 16, midway through Tory's four-year term. The change comes as Tory is set to oversee a shuffle of councillor appointments to key committees that will shape debate in the term's back half.

Before the 2014 election Galbraith worked in the offices of then-prime minister Stephen Harper and then-cabinet minister John Baird, and later at Playbook Communications. After defending Tory against attacks from Doug Ford and Olivia Chow during the bruising 10-month campaign, she left Playbook, which was bought by Navigator, to join his staff.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Feds called hypocrites on Sixties Scoop

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Lawyer says motion to toss suit clashes with rhetoric

The federal government wants a Toronto judge to throw out a class-action lawsuit from survivors of the Sixties Scoop — a move the plaintiffs' lawyer says is at odds with the Liberals' public stance on the issue.

It's believed at least 16,000 people in Ontario were affected when authorities removed indigenous children from their families and placed them in foster care or up for adoption over a period of about 20 years beginning in the 1960s.

The government acknowledged in recently filed court material that indigenous children placed in non-indigenous care would have lost opportunities to learn about their language and culture, and that many children in those situations "experienced psychological or other personal harm."

But it also argues that it is wrong to impose present-day standards of care for indigenous children on the Sixties Scoop practices.

The government lawyers will plead their case before Superior Court Justice Edward Belobaba on Thursday.

16,000

Conservative estimate of the number of people in Ontario hit by the Scoop

The Sixties Scoop survivors are engaged in what is called a summary judgment proceeding, meaning they believe they have enough evidence against the government to forego a full trial.

Following their election in 2015, the Liberals spoke of reconciliation with indigenous peoples as a priority, and last summer Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett said the government is open to finding a solution to the Sixties Scoop lawsuits.

"We want to work together with all of the litigants that are presently in court and try and get to the table," Bennett said in August.

But the survivors' lawyer, Jeffery Wilson, said that judging by the stalling, the requests for dismissal and the thousands of pages the government has disclosed to the plaintiffs "at the 11th hour," his clients are getting a completely different message.

"For my clients, it's just a repeat of governments saying one thing and doing the other," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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The city says to be on your guard, but coyotes are an important part of the ecosystem in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

WILDLIFE

Coyotes are coming

Rebecca Chiu
Metro | Toronto

The City of Toronto wants residents to know that an uptick in coyote sightings can be expected this time of year, especially for those living near ravines or forests.

The city issued a news release in response to reported coyote sightings in High Park, shared online by residents and veterinarians.

Along with information about Toronto's "coyote response strategy" that includes the city's criteria for the "removal of coyotes," the release also has some guidelines for pet owners.

Toronto recommends pet owners who live in areas known to have coyote activity to keep their dogs on a leash, keep cats indoors and refrain from feeding pets outside.

"A bite on another animal is not grounds for removal, as this is normal coyote behaviour," it says.

"Coyotes have become a natural part of the urban landscape in Toronto and are an important part of the ecosystem as they control rodent and rabbit populations," it adds.

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Torontonians on the front lines

As the world marks AIDS Day Thursday, Metro explores the situation in Toronto through the eyes of those living with and fighting against the disease. Despite significant advances in medicine, ignorance and stigma continue to be the largest obstacles in eradicating HIV/AIDS in the city.

GILBERT NGABO METRO

1 'Like coming out of the closet again'

When Thom Vernon and Vajdon Sohaili moved to Toronto in 2006, it felt like they had found a home.

The two met in the U.S. 17 years ago, but when Vernon's efforts to sponsor Sohaili — who hails from Zimbabwe — were denied, they decided to leave.

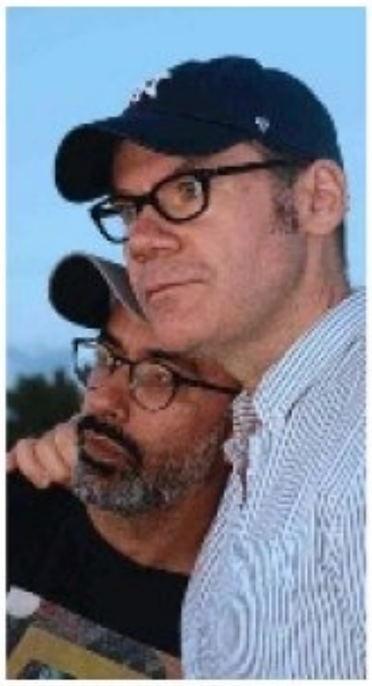
It wasn't an easy choice; Vernon is HIV-positive, which can make immigration difficult.

"One person is positive, the other person is African. We were like the two queer people that nobody wants. Fortunately Canada would have us," said Vernon, who now teaches screenwriting at the University of Toronto.

Since moving to the city, the couple have become advocates in the fight against HIV/AIDS. They're currently taking part in Positive Plus One, a UofT research study looking to compile data about the lives of people in what's known as serodiscordant relationships — where only one partner is HIV-positive.

An estimated 25 per cent of HIV-positive people in Canada live in mixed relationships, but "nothing is known about these people ... the issues they face and what their needs are," said study director Liviana Calzavara.

Both Vernon and Sohaili say serodiscordant couples face an additional stigma. "When we decided to tell my parents that Thom was positive, it was even a bigger deal. It was like coming out of the closet again," Sohaili said.



Thom Vernon, right, and his partner **Vajdon Sohaili**. CONTRIBUTED

John Maxwell, executive director of AIDS Committee Toronto, during this year's Pride Parade. CONTRIBUTED

2 'We are in a privileged situation'

For AIDS Committee Toronto director John Maxwell, the fight against HIV/AIDS is all about zero.

Zero new deaths, zero new infections, and zero stigma.

That's the goals of the AIDS Committee's new Towards Zero campaign, which will be launching Thursday to coincide with World AIDS Day.

"We have to realize that we are in a privileged situation where everyone can afford medications and all information needed," Maxwell said.

In Toronto, new diagnoses have dropped "significantly" over the past two years, from more than 800 a year to around 400, said Maxwell. The number of new infections among women has decreased by 57 per cent.

Eventually, Maxwell wants to get that number to zero.

"We basically want to put ourselves out of business," he said.

3 'People don't even know they're at risk'

Zahid Somani has been on the front line of the fight against HIV/AIDS for two decades.

"I've seen it all the way from the days when we only had AZT as a treatment to today where we have five or six classes of treatments," said the owner of the The Village Pharmacy in the Church-Wellesley area.

Somani says recent advancements in medical technology are allowing people to live near-normal lives with HIV/AIDS.

"Today, HIV is no longer a death sentence. It is a chronic, treatable illness and it's important for people to know that."

The current trend is the Single Tablet Regimen, where patients can have multiple medications in one pill, making it easier to follow prescriptions without missing doses.

Last February, Health Canada approved the use of Truvada as PrEP, allowing HIV-negative people to take it as a prevention measure.

However, Health Canada estimates 25 per cent people with HIV in Canada don't know they have the disease.

"That's the big issue, if people don't even know they're at risk," said Somani.

Zahid Somani has been working in HIV medical treatment for more than 20 years. LANCE MCMILLAN/FOR METRO

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Pipeline voices

A day after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced cabinet approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline, we talk to Albertans on the ground about the decision.

METRO

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the approval this week of two major oil pipeline expansions, insisting all the while that the new fossil fuel infrastructure fits within his Liberal government's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Environmental advocates immediately called the approvals a betrayal, but a series of government climate policy moves this year suggest Canada's emissions should come down - although whether it will be enough to meet the country's 2030 climate commitment is another matter.

Trudeau sits down next week with provincial and territorial premiers to complete a pan-Canadian climate strategy that's supposed to put the country on a downward emissions trajectory to its 2030 Paris emissions target. The government has promised the United Nations that Canada will cut emissions 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mike Hudema, Greenpeace Canada spokesperson

I feel like Alberta made a huge strategic error in wasting so much time talking and pushing for pipelines, a resource that the world needs to move away from and the world committed to moving away from.

Joseph Jobin, Chief Operating Officer, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

It is noteworthy that Premier Notley had nothing to say about First Nations approval or inclusion in the process ... We're willing to work to ensure success for Alberta, but there's still lots of hard work and consultation needed.

Stan Gervais, oilpatch worker

I think what happened is good. It would've been nice to get all three (pipelines), but I think the government has to make everybody happy, so he made the oilpatch happy by approving the two and made the other people happy by not approving one.

This is a defining moment for our project and Canada's energy industry.

Ian Anderson, president, Kinder Morgan, Calgary

#WOMENONBOARDS

Canadian firms are proving more diverse

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Canada's major corporations have a few more women and a bit more diversity around their boardroom tables — but they are still a long way from reflecting the make-up of the country.

The Canadian Board Diversity Council released its annual survey this week showing that women now make up 21.6 per cent of the directors on the boards of 500 major Canadian companies. That's up slightly from 19.5 per cent last year and up significantly from the 10.9 per cent in 2009, when the survey first began.

About 4.5 per cent of board directors said they were a member of a visible minority, 1.8 per cent identified as a person with disabilities, 0.6 identified as Indigenous, and 2.1 per cent said they were a member of the LGBTQ community.

Sean Hemraj, vice-president of business development and marketing for the Women's Executive Network, said the numbers are an improvement but there is a lot of work to do.

He said diversity is not just about better representation, but about better business.

"It offers a different perspective that helps organizations recognize, adapt and innovate based on what is happening in the real world," he said.

Retail companies had the most gender diversity, but mining and oil/gas firms were much lower.

COURTS

Judge Camp should go, committee says

A Canadian Judicial Council committee says a judge's apology for asking a sexual assault complainant why she couldn't keep her knees together doesn't offset the damage done and Robin Camp should lose his job.

"We conclude that Justice Camp's conduct is so manifestly and profoundly destructive of the concept of the impartiality, integrity and independence of the judicial role that public confidence is sufficiently undermined to render the judge incapable of executing the judicial office," the five-member panel wrote in a unanimous decision released Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Children hold a photograph of former Cuban President Fidel Castro as they wait for the caravan transporting his remains to pass on its journey to Santiago de Cuba. GETTY IMAGES

Cubans line up to bid leader farewell

MOURNING

Fidel Castro makes his final journey through nation

To waving flags and some shouts of "Long may he live!" Fidel Castro's ashes began a four-day journey across the island Wednesday, retracing the path of his triumphant march into Havana nearly six decades ago.

A small, Cuban-flag covered cedar coffin containing the remains of the 90-year-old leader was taken out of Cuba's Defence Ministry just after 7 a.m. and placed into a flower-bedecked trailer pulled by a green military jeep for the more than 500-mile (800-kilometre) procession to his final resting place in the eastern city of Santiago. The ashes will be interred Sunday, ending the nine-day mourning period for the man who ruled the country for nearly 50 years.

The route traces in reverse the victory tour Castro and his bearded rebels took after overthrowing the forces of strongman Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

Outside Havana, the caravan will pass through rural communities significantly changed by social and economic reforms he adopted. Many residents now have access to health care and education. But many of those towns are also in a prolonged economic collapse, the country's once-dominant sugar industry decimated, the sugar mills and plantations gone.

Thousands of Cubans lined the streets of Havana, some sleeping on sidewalks overnight, to bid goodbye to Castro. Many had attended a massive rally Tuesday night at Havana's Revolution Plaza, where the presidents of Cuba, Mexico, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela and South Africa, along with leaders of a host of smaller nations, offered speeches paying tribute to Castro, who died Friday night.

The crowds at the rally and along Wednesday's procession route were a mix of people attending on their own and groups of Cubans organized by government workplaces, where attendance was not strictly obligatory but with strong pressure to attend. Some groups of government workers slept on the streets because all public transport had been commandeered to move people to Castro-related activities.

Along the city's historic Malecon, the funeral procession passed to near-total silence among the crowd. Peering from the sidewalk, rooftops and balconies overlooking the sea, people took cellphone video and photos as keepsakes.

Tuesday's rally began with black-and-white revolution-era footage of Castro and other guerrillas on a big screen and the playing of the Cuban national anthem. Castro's younger brother and successor, Raul, closed the rally with a speech thanking world leaders for their words of praise for his brother, whom he called the leader of a revolution "for the humble, and by the humble." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thief snags gold in broad daylight

Rebecca Chiu
Metro | Toronto

He walks pretty quickly for someone carrying 86 pounds — perhaps because the content of the bucket is worth $1.6 million.

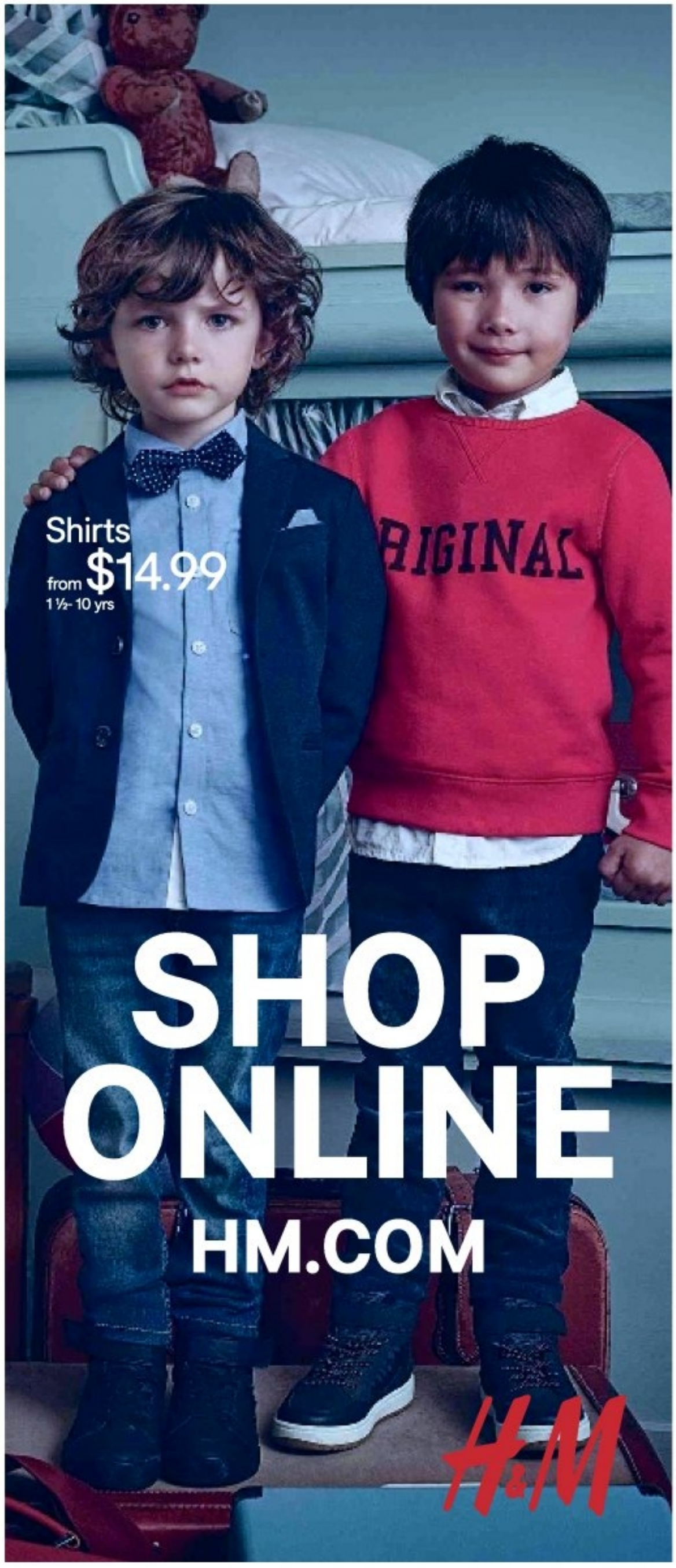
New York police released surveillance video from Sept. 29, showing a man milling about an armoured truck in Midtown Manhattan before grabbing a bucket off the back of the vehicle and scurrying away.

All the while, two men are sitting in the truck's cab, unaware they just got robbed. Police say they don't believe the man knew the contents of the bucket, but that he probably knew there was a chance it had value.

"I think he just saw an opportunity, took the pail and walked off," NYPD Det. Martin Pastor told WNBC-TV. Police are searching for the suspect, who they believe is now in Florida.

VIDEO ON THE METRO APP

NYPD are searching for a man who stole a bucket full of $1.6 million in gold. NYPD



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Trump leaving his businesses

POLITICS

President-elect walks away from empire to focus on presidency

President-elect Donald Trump declared Wednesday he will leave his business empire behind to focus on his presidency. But the prospect that he could simply shift more control to three of his adult children looked too cozy to some business-ethics specialists who suggest the arrangement could bring unprecedented conflicts of interest into the Oval Office.

Trump announced in a series of early morning tweets that he would leave his "great business," adding: "While I am not mandated to do this under the law, I feel it is visually important, as president, to in no way have a conflict of interest with my various businesses."

Trump provided no details, though he said legal documents were being prepared. He previously had said he'd leave his business operations to his three eldest children - Donald Jr., Eric and Ivanka.

Asked if the tweets indicated plans to move the businesses to the children, Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conway said Wednesday, "it appears that way."

"The three adult children who do already work in the corporation are expected to continue in those roles and in fact increase their responsibilities in those roles," Conway said.

Ethics experts have pushed for Trump to fully exit the ownership of his businesses using a blind trust or equivalent arrangement.

The laws are generally loose for presidents regarding their businesses except when it comes to ties to or gifts from foreign governments.

Trump spent much of Wednesday conducting meetings in his Manhattan high-rise. His pick for secretary of state remains up in the air, though aides say he has narrowed his choices to four.

One contender, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney dined with him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CELEBRATING THE OBAMAS' LAST CHRISTMAS
This year's White House Gingerbread House in the State Dining Room of the White House during a preview of the holiday decor at the White House. The gingerbread house features 150 pounds of gingerbread on the inside, 100 pounds of bread dough on the outside, 20 pounds of gum paste, 20 pounds of icing, and 20 pounds of sculpted sugar pieces.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Larger than life replicas of Bo and Sunny, made of more than 25,000 yarn pom-poms. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First Lady Michelle Obama speaks to military families in the East Room of the White House during a preview of the 2016 holiday decor. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHESS

Carlsen remains the chairman of the board
Magnus Carlsen of Norway defeated Sergey Karjakin of Russia in the World Chess Championship in New York City on Wednesday. Carlsen retained his title Wednesday night by winning the best-of-four speed games.

Organizers say 6 million people followed the series. The championship prize is $1.1 million divided between the players. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, December 1, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE APPROVED PIPELINES

Trudeau's announcement is unlikely to win him supporters within the ranks of those who most support the pipeline agenda. They tend to be spoken for by the Conservative party.

It is a rare government decision that involves a lot of predictable political pain for little obvious electoral gain. For better or for worse, the approval by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of the controversial Trans Mountain pipeline falls in that category.

It is unlikely to win him supporters within the ranks of those who most support the pipeline agenda. They tend to be spoken for by the Conservative party and, for the most part, have no appetite for Trudeau's proactive climate change agenda.

On the other hand, at least some of the seats of the 17 Liberal MPs elected in B.C. in the last election could be on the line. The approval of this pipeline plan will not sit well with many of the constituents. Even if he wanted to, Trudeau could not get all his caucus members to sing the same song on this issue. A handful of them have already broken ranks with his decision.

The Liberals are not the only ones potentially at risk on what is probably Canada's most contentious front these days.

Take British Columbia Premier Christy Clark. She will be campaigning for re-election in the spring. If she supports Trudeau's move, it will be her provincial Liberals who will first test the post-announcement waters.

There is no way Trudeau could have killed two pipelines to the Pacific coast and then backed the no less controversial Energy East project.

She could be in for a choppy crossing.

There is a widespread expectation on Parliament Hill that Clark will at some point publicly sign off on the Trans Mountain project.

PIPELINE PALS Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley speak on Parliament Hill, Tuesday.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The federal government has been playing nice with its B.C. counterpart, delivering a much wanted green light for a major liquefied gas development and promising billions of federal dollars to improve marine safety.

But Clark would not be the political survivor that she is if she did not have a well-honed instinct for self-preservation. B.C. elections are won or lost in the greater Vancouver area, the site of the pipeline whose capacity to carry bitumen oil to the coast Kinder Morgan plans to expand.

On Wednesday, she said Trudeau was close to meeting all of her conditions for supporting the pipeline. She invited the prime minister to come to B.C. to sell the decision. By all indications, she wants to see how it all plays out before taking a definitive stance.

Then there is the NDP. While Alberta Premier Rachel Notley was celebrating a big win alongside Trudeau on Tuesday, Thomas Mulcair was calling the federal decision a betrayal of the trust many B.C. voters placed in the prime minister. The provincial New Democrats are also critical of the federal decision.

The cracks between the ruling NDP in Edmonton and their opposition cousins in Parliament and in Victoria are becoming too wide to be papered over. Whoever succeeds Mulcair will be hard-pressed to square the pipeline circle.

In any event, as of now Trudeau and Notley are joined at the hip. On Tuesday, the prime minister argued it was the premier's determination to rein in Alberta's carbon emissions that made his approval of a pipeline consistent with Canada's climate change commitments.

But if she fails to win re-election the quid pro quo is unlikely to survive her NDP government, leaving Trudeau with little to show on climate change for having delivered a pipeline from tidewater to Alberta.

Had the prime minister vetoed the Kinder Morgan project, he might as well have declared a moratorium on any plan to bring more of Alberta's bitumen oil to the Canadian coasts.

There is no way Trudeau could have killed two pipelines to the Pacific coast (Northern Gateway and Trans Mountain) and then backed the no less controversial Energy East project. (Punting the decision on the Vancouver area pipeline would most likely only have hardened opposition to the plan.)

That being said, it might be prudent for TransCanada — the company behind the plan to link the oilfields to the Atlantic Coast through the Prairies and Central Canada — to not take this week's federal yes to Kinder Morgan as a sign that its pipeline will be good to go any time soon, if at all.

A betting person might reasonably wager that Trudeau will not want to open another front in the pipeline wars between now and the 2019 election. And that probably makes Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard, who could be facing an uphill re-election battle in less than two years, a collateral winner of this week's developments.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro on Thursdays.

VICKY MOCHAMA

Gilmores' girl-on-girl banter sounds suspiciously like life

When Gilmore Girls premiered 16 years ago, it was unique — a female-centric show that stayed focused on women — but the data shows that with its return to Netflix, it is still an anomaly.

Gilmore Girls can do no wrong. In my heart, it already has five stars (I rate on a four star system.) It would be like Netflix putting out a show called Your Mom, featuring only video clips of my mother. Even when she's not perfect, she's perfect to me.

So instead of quality or plot, I'm watching for validation.

This isn't to set the bar low for the revival. With a cast including Melissa McCarthy, Kelly Bishop, and Edward Herrmann there were many Emmy-worth episodes in the original run. Exhibit A: In a Season 1 episode, Rory (Alexis Bledel) returns home in the early morning after a date. On finding out, Lauren Graham's Lorelai veers from panicking to castigating her mother to fighting with her daughter. Within a five-minute span, she hits every single note perfectly.

Notably, that scene like countless others in the Gilmore Girls' canon, is focused on women's relationships with each other. This was a show entirely about women's lives apart from men. (Occasionally, the plot centres on a man but, despite our best efforts, that happens in women's lives too.)

In writing women's lives, film and television consistently fail. Take the Disney princess films. You'd think that women clearly dominate the dialogue in movies about them. Turns out that even in fictional cartoon worlds, men routinely talk over women.

Researchers found that in the original three princess films — Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella — female characters speak as much or more than male characters but that in the films of the 1990s, male voices dominate the dialogue: they speak 76 per cent of the time in Pocahontas, 68 per cent in The Little Mermaid, and 71 per cent in Beauty and the Beast. In the newer films like Tangled, Brave and Frozen, males still get the majority of talk time.

An exhaustive study from Polygraph confirmed the trend. Looking at screenplays for 2000 films, the team found that men over-indexed in speaking roles across every genre of film and age of actor. Even romantic comedy had men speaking 58 per cent of the lines. Polygraph also found that women actors over 42 experienced a sudden drop in assigned dialogue and that by age 65, they were virtually mute. Conversely, as men aged, they were given more speaking roles.

From a bird's-eye view, then, it's easy to see why the revival has caught the attention of so many women. We're starving to hear women's voices, even if they're the same ones we've heard before.

So not only is it great to hear the Gilmore women talk again but in the dim landscape of television and film, it's nice to hear any women talk at all.

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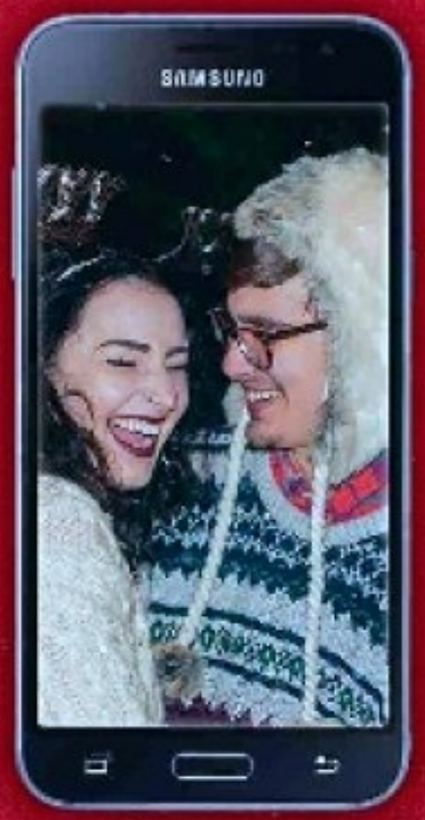

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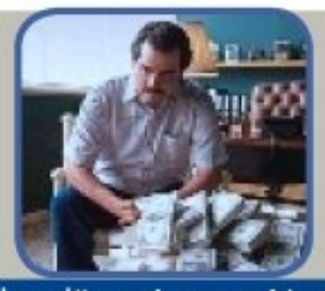

There is now a "download" option on Netflix

A guide to spotting fake news

With so much content out there it can be easy to be duped. Here's a handy cheat-sheet, with tips courtesy of University of Toronto Libraries' online guide, on how to avoid accidentally spamming your friends. MAY WARREN/METRO

A tweet by @TrumpaholicMAGA wrote "they sure look alike," and shared this image of Justin Trudeau and Fidel Castro. Fake news stories easily gain momentum online. ILLUSTRATION BY METRO; PHOTO VIA @TRUMPAHOLICMAGA

University of Toronto librarians say anybody can be fooled by fake news stories. This recent whopper claimed U.S. President Barack Obama wants to remove the Statue of Liberty. SCREENSHOT/UOFTNEWS.CA

1 Look at the domain name

Look at the domain name. When sites end in unusual ways, such as ". Com.co," it's a clue they may be fake.

2 Check your sources

Check out the source a little more carefully. If you've never heard of a website look at the "About Us" section for more info, or explore it more to see how much other content there is.

3 Google it to compare

Google the headline to see how other news sources are reporting the story. Are there any other accounts? How have other outlets reported it?

4 ARE YOU ALARMED?

The use of ALL CAPS, and very poor web design are clues you're not looking at a reliable source.

5 Tenets of journalism

Does the article make you incredibly angry or outraged? Good journalism can also evoke emotion but if something is trying to make you mad on purpose to share the story and get ad revenue, it's a red flag.

6 Don't worry there's help

When in doubt there are a few handy websites that can help verify stories and sources, such as: FactCheck.org, PolitiFact, and Snopes.

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JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Witty, wry, even sad, Fleabag is a sensation

THE SHOW: Fleabag, Season 1, Episode 1 (Amazon Prime)
THE MOMENT: Dissing the ex

Phoebe Waller-Bridge frequently breaks the fourth wall and talks directly to the viewers in Fleabag. CONTRIBUTED

Fleabag (Phoebe Waller-Bridge, who created and writes the show) has just met a buck-toothed man on a bus (Jamie Demetriou). He asks how her ex was fool enough to let her go.

"He was just really kind and supportive," she says. "He'd cook all the time, run baths. Laugh at my jokes. He was great with my family. Plus he was really f—ing affectionate."

She's serious, but Bus Rodent doesn't get it. "Yeah, he sounds like a dickhead," he says.

She gives him her number. "I'll be sure to treat you like a nasty little bitch," he says. She grins into the camera at us.

"Um, that was a joke," he says.

"Oh, I know," she trills. But to us, she frowns.

In this six-part series, Waller-Bridge's sharp-tongued, but secretly self-loathing, Londoner (we never learn her real name) frequently breaks the fourth wall, talking directly to the viewer in the middle of a scene. It's like watching your best friend's home movies while she whispers the real, raunchier story in your ear.

She obsesses about sex, "the performance of it. The awkwardness." She kills time in the failing café she opened with her best pal Boo (Jenny Rainsford). She laments to her uptight sister Claire (Sian Clifford) that her farts now sound like their mum's.

You can see why the show is a sensation. Waller-Bridge is witty and wry and then suddenly sad. Though by the end you may feel that a piece of her soul is still missing, you'd happily come back for more.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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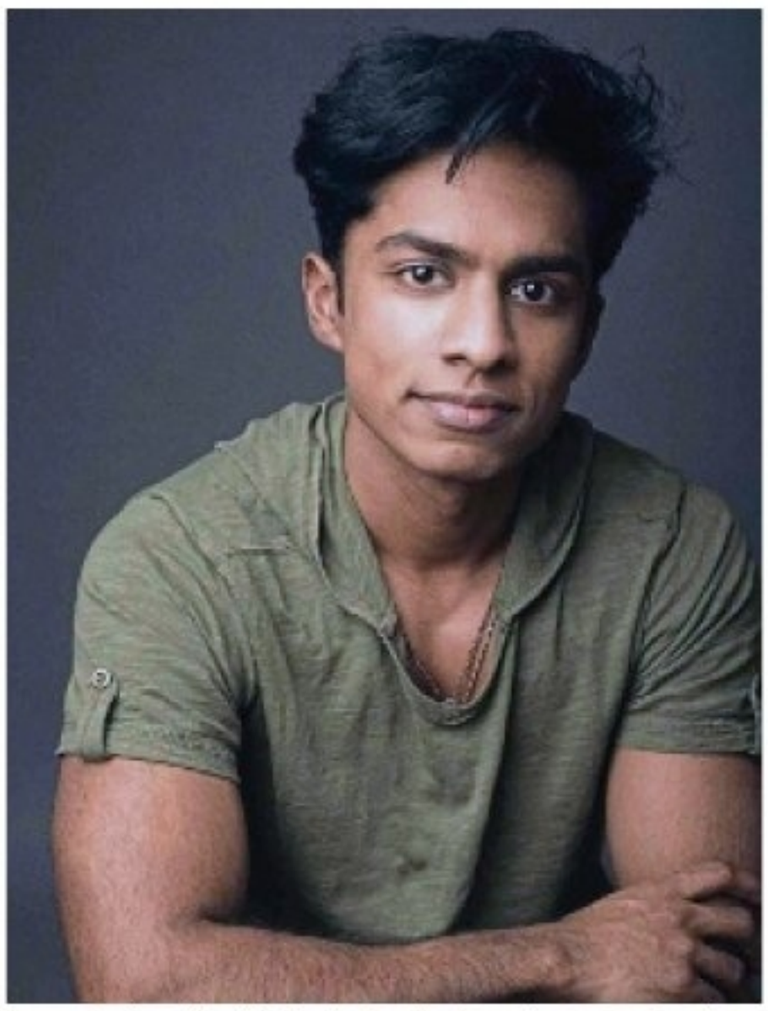
An old soul with an eye on the future



Surendra describes his book, The Elephants in My Backyard, as "the Eat, Pray, Love for the millennial generation." CONTRIBUTED

MEMOIR

Rajiv Surendra on heartbreak, big dreams and trying to swim

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

When Rajiv Surendra was only 12 years old — well before he was cast as the rapping mathlete Kevin Gnapoor in Tina Fey's cult comedy Mean Girls starring Lindsay Lohan — he took up calligraphy while working as a costumed interpreter at Toronto's Black Creek Pioneer Village.

It's an unusual hobby for a young boy, but Surendra has always been something of an old soul.

"I think there's something so important about looking at the past to understand the future," Surendra says. "I feel such a connection with a slower, quieter time."

The key to creating his smooth pen or chalk strokes, Surendra explains, is that it takes not just a steady hand, but use of his full arm, right from his shoulder.

It took years to perfect the craft, which he has now turned into a career; his patience and persistence holding up Malcolm Gladwell's theory that you need 10,000 hours of practice to master a skill.

Surendra's obsessive nature and unwillingness to settle also led him on the biggest journey of his life, trying to snag the lead role in the film adaptation of Yann Martel's novel The Life of Pi. His failed quest is at the heart of his memoir, The Elephants in My Backyard, which he refers to as "the Eat, Pray, Love for the millennial generation."

It was a camera operator on the Mean Girls set who suggested Surendra read Life of Pi, saying, "It's a book about you."

Surendra tore through the novel and discovered eerie similarities with Martel's protagonist. Although he had obviously never survived on an ocean raft with a menagerie of wild beasts like Pi, both were young, thin Tamil men who grew up with animals, and studied at the University of Toronto's St. Michael's College. And so when news broke that a film in the works, Surendra wanted the lead more than anything in his life. He was Pi.

Surendra travelled to India for several months to immerse in the culture. He dove off a cliff and stared a tiger in the eye, but that was not half as frightening as getting in the water. "On the horrible, horrible days when I was so scared in the water and I was hyperventilating and my muscles were seizing, I would tell myself that even if you don't get this part, all the work and struggling will be worth it because you will know how to swim," he says.

Meanwhile, the film was also struggling, with revolving directors attached to the project. When director Ang Lee eventually cast unknown Indian actor Suraj Sharma in the part, Surendra was devastated, and took off for Munich for a year to mourn. "After six years of research and dreaming, Pi was a real person to me — it was like he died," he says.

Eventually Surendra came back to Toronto, and picked up his calligraphy pen again.

"The reason why I was motivated to write this story down is because I learned so much," he says.

"Hey, if I could embark on something like this, and fail and pick myself up and keep going, then the next big dream or journey won't be difficult."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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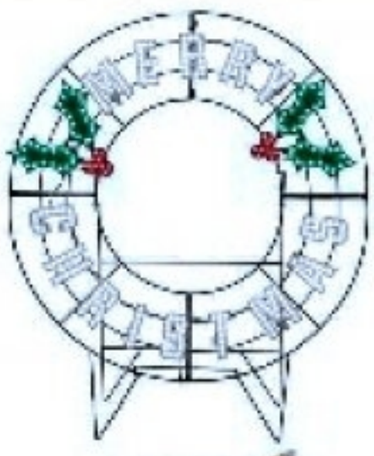

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FW-44: METRO TORONTO, OTTAWA, VANCOUVER, CALGARY, EDMONTON

BOOK BRIEFS

Suspense novel up next for Girl on the Train author

The British author of The Girl on the Train will next tell a tale of murder in a riverside town.

Riverhead Books told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Paula Hawkins' Into the Water is a suspense novel about family secrets and "the slipperiness of truth" that will be published May 2. The plot centres on the discovery of the bodies of a mother and teenage girl at the bottom of a river and the investigation that follows. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It's about how your memories of childhood shape you and make you the person you are. Paula Hawkins

CALENDAR

A-Listers' natural beauty celebrated

Pirelli on Tuesday unveiled the 2017 edition of its famed calendar, which sees photographer Peter Lindbergh mature beyond snaps of seminude models and set his lens on Hollywood.

The calendar, entitled "Emotional" and launched in Paris, stars 14 Oscar-winning actresses featured in black-and-white close up, in clothed poses with invisible makeup.

It's a dramatic move away from decades of risqué shots that made the calendar, produced by the Italian tire manufacturer, one of the most recognizable in the world.

A-listers including Charlotte Rampling, Uma Thurman, Helen Mirren, Nicole Kidman, Lea Seydoux, Alicia Vikander, Kate Winslet, Julianne Moore, Lupita Nyong'o, Rooney Mara, Zhang Ziyi and Jessica Chastain all agreed to go near-makeup-free for the grown-up shoots.

Speaking about his artistic choices, the German photographer said that he's "not so fond of high heels and bikinis" and wanted to capture the nakedness in the soul of the calendar's stars, not their bodies.

"In a time when women are represented in the media (as) perfection and truth, I thought it was important to remind people that there is a different beauty," Lindbergh said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nicole Kidman, left, and Uma Thurman. AP PHOTO/FRANCOIS MORI

EQUITY WOMEN 'MUST CONTINUE TO DREAM BIG' Serena Williams has penned an open letter calling out what she sees as double standards faced by women in sports. The 22-time Grand Slam champion says people call her one of the "world's greatest female athletes," but notes that male athletes such as LeBron James and Tiger Woods aren't described by their gender. Williams says the equal pay issue frustrates her because women "have done the same work and made the same sacrifices as our male counterparts." She says women "must continue to dream big" to "empower the next generation of women to be just as bold in their pursuits." The letter was published in Porter Magazine and republished by British newspaper The Guardian. LUCA BRUNO/AP FILE

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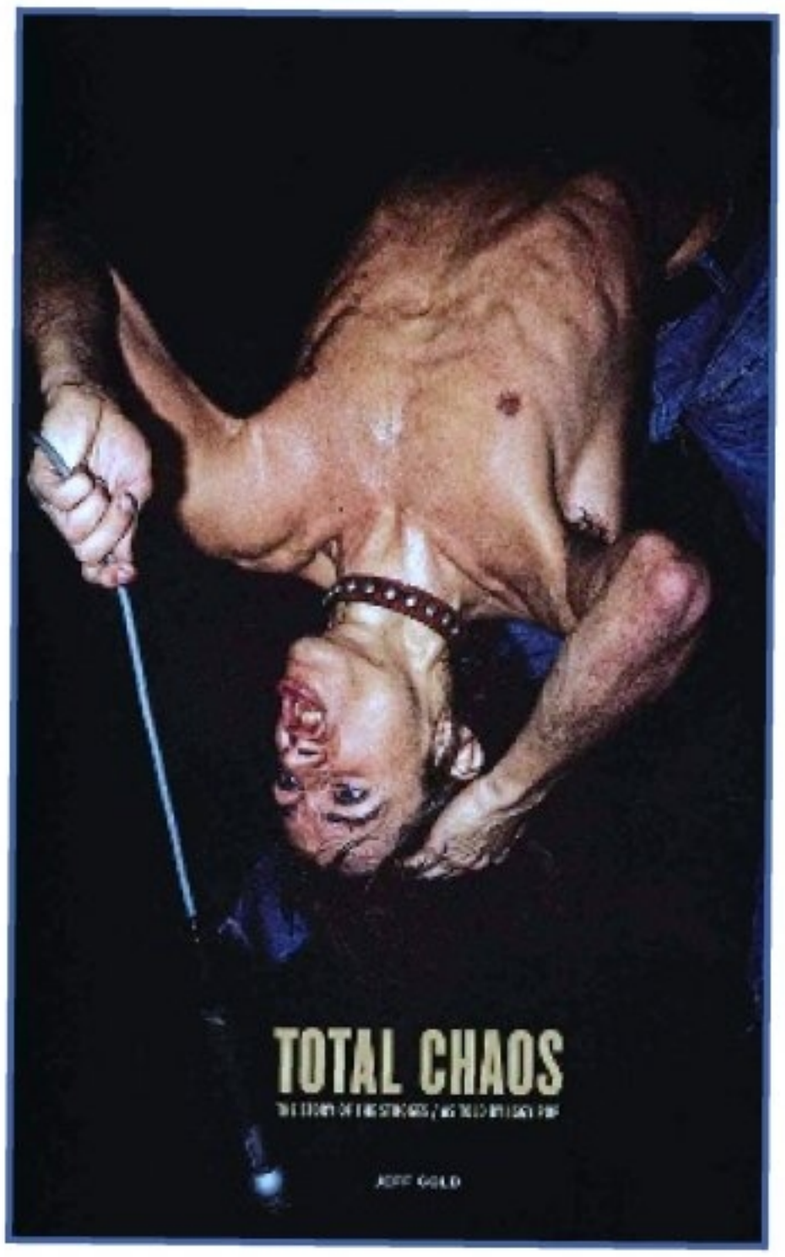

Recounting the chaotic history of The Stooges

BIOGRAPHY

Frontman Iggy Pop astounds writer with rich memory

Gilles LeBlanc
For Metro Canada

What began innocently as Iggy Pop reminiscing over items from his past with memorabilia collector Jeff Gold turned into the definitive oral history about one of the most influential rock bands ever.

Total Chaos: The Story of The Stooges/As Told by Iggy Pop, out this week via Third Man Books revisits in explicit, expletive detail how these Michigan misfits were unappreciated, commercial failures during their initial run from 1967-1974. Their legend as punk pioneers, however, grew exponentially in the three decades that followed.

The Stooges reunited in 2003 at the Coachella Music Festival, were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and continued to experience an unexpected renaissance that has dovetailed into Iggy Pop enjoying his most successful year to date.

"We were completely unprepared for how much (Iggy) remembered," Gold said prior to a book launch event with Pop in New York City. The habitually shirtless vocalist has had a long-standing reputation for drug use. "I was astounded at the breadth of his recall," which put the collector-turned-author at times in a "bizarre situation of having to cut him off periodically. You knew this wasn't a guy making it up, that he actually did remember all of this."

Gold modestly sees himself not so much as a writer, but more of a wrangler. "I had this incredible interview, I had these incredible pictures. (Total Chaos) went from being interesting to being important history. I felt like I had an obligation to history to get this right." Well yeehaw to that!

As for Third Man Books, the imprint offshoot of Motor City-raised rocker Jack White, Gold said he already had a publisher for what would eventually come to be Total Chaos, but "was just absolutely blown away at how (Third Man) have reinvented the record business" with everything they've got going on in Nashville and now Detroit's Cass Corridor. "It was just so natural" for them to be home to his Stooges book. Limited Editions from Third Man will not only have Iggy's John Hancock, but also a 7" vinyl record of him singing over I'm a Man, a song by his first band The Prime Movers. Way, way cool.

Total Chaos: The Story of The Stooges is available on Amazon or Thrdmanbooks.com. COURTESY THIRD MAN BOOKS

"People who are interested in Iggy and the Stooges, I think it's a natural," says the biographer who's become a friend of the frontman.

He solicited the opinions of several A-list rockstars about the effect this uncharacteristic band has had on them. A definite highlight of Total Chaos is the amazing story Dave Grohl relates about how his life was profoundly changed by Pop in 1990; the Iggster plucked him from pre-Nirvana obscurity to perform before a room of record executives at Toronto's Bovine Sex Club of all places.

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Daughters and dads

RELATIONSHIPS

Researchers note the importance of fathers in their daughters' development

Camilla Cornell

When my daughter, Carly, was born, my husband cradled her in her arms as if she would break. "I guess I'm really a grown up now," he said.

In the years since, they've developed their own special relationship. He was the guy who played with her down on the floor while I got dinner, balancing her on his feet until she felt steady enough to let go and spread her arms wide. She'd comb tiny braids into his hair and fastened them with pink and purple barrettes, then laugh uproariously at him. And as she got older, they had impromptu dim sum dates. They never talked much about feelings or discussed boyfriends. They just hung out.

Much has been said about the need for boys to have male role models in their lives. But research shows that girls need their dads just as much. Their influence starts early and lasts a lifetime. The University of Maryland School of Medicine found children with actively involved fathers had better language skills and fewer behavioural problems, even if dad didn't live with the kids.

Vanderbilt University noted that girls with close, positive relationships with their dads in the early years tended to reach puberty later. And University of Oxford researchers noted that girls with more involved fathers were less likely to face mental health problems later in life. The well-fathered daughter is also more likely to have relationships with men that are emotionally intimate and fulfilling, according to Linda Nielsen, a professor at Wake Forest University in North Carolina and author of Father-Daughter Relationships: Contemporary Research & Issues.

What makes dads so influential? Many admit that they're not as hands-on as moms. "I parent by inaction and I don't pick up on things the way that Anne (his wife) does," says Jeff Mahoney, the father of Lucy, 16, and Ruby, 19. Or, as Lucy puts it, "My mom worries more. My dad is chill. He's kind of just laid back and lets me do my thing."

Moms sometimes take this as benign neglect, but Steven Rhoads, a University of Virginia professor and author of Taking Sex Differences Seriously, contends that fathers have their own style of parenting, with its own virtues.

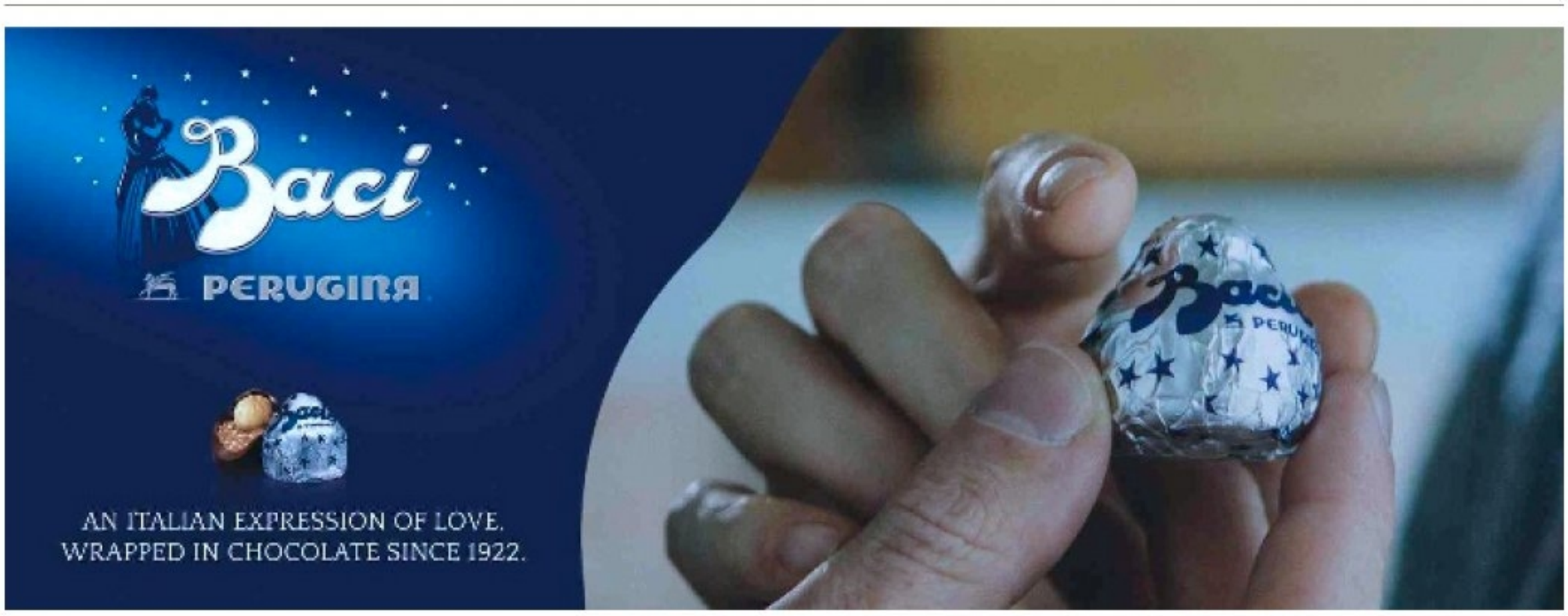
Paul Dalglish, a father of three girls ages 10 to 20, says his tendency has always been to let the kids climb higher and farther. And when they're upset over a parenting decision, he says, "she is more likely to comfort them, whereas I just say, 'That's the way it is.'"

But, while their approaches are different, he believes the girls benefit from watching the interplay. "They see us working together," he says. "And they learn how grownups interact with each other."

It's a view shared by Meghan Laws, a 29-year-old PhD student who credits her parents with teaching her what a respectful, loving relationship looks like. "My parents are definitely a tight-knit unit," she says. "They are a team in the way they parented us." Although her mom tended to be the hands-on parent in many ways, it was her dad, she says, who emphasized the importance of self-discipline, assertiveness, critical thinking and tenacity. "I still remember him quizzing me for hours for my first science test on insects and amphibians," says Laws. "With my dad, it was more about what he did than what he said." And as both researchers and well-loved daughters can attest, that can make a big difference.

"University of Oxford researchers noted that girls with more involved fathers were less likely to face mental health problems later in life.

A father's influence on his daughter starts early and lasts a lifetime. ISTOCK



THIS SPECIAL REPORT WAS CREATED BY CONTENT SOLUTIONS, INDEPENDENT OF METRO EDITORIAL.

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Palm Springs 'UFO' home of the late Bob Hope sells for $13 million U.S.

Change in the city

The addition of this new PATH pedestrian bridge allows Maple Leaf Square condo residents to walk from Union Station all the way to Queen's Quay. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

CONDO TRENDS

Toronto is growing up — literally

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

As we move closer towards 2017, Metro looks at what's on the radar for new condo building trends in Toronto. In a sign the city has "grown up," radical new designs that utilize the airspace between and above existing structures aim to create new urban spaces out of thin air.

Menkes Harbour Plaza condos in downtown Toronto's South Core financial district is a mixed-use community that features elevated enclosed glass walkways.

The addition of the new PATH pedestrian bridges allows commuters as well as residents of the Harbour Plaza and Maple Leaf Square condos to walk from Union Station all the way to Queen's Quay. The bridges span over Lake Shore Boulevard and under the Gardiner Expressway and cross over Harbour Street further south.

The two-storey SkyBridge at Concord CityPlace condos is another great example of aerial construction that makes use of the airspace between the 38 and 43-storey Parade towers. CityPlace developer Concord Adex worked with PCL Constructors to hoist the glass and steel structure to the 28th-floor level.

> **There's the opportunity to change the city and to really bring it to the next step. You're actually creating land where it doesn't exist right now.**
> Michael Moschino

On the waterfront at the foot of Yonge Street is the striking Pier 27 condominium development that takes to the sky with an unconventional design.

The campus of four residential buildings built by Cityzen and Fernbrook Homes is linked by angular, box-like skybridges placed above the condo suites.

There are myriad engineering challenges to this type of construction. Canadian consulting engineering firm, Entuitive, is no stranger to the intricacies of building overhead.

Entuitive principal Michael Moschino says that these engaging architectural high-wire feats are a sign that the city is coming of age, and that developers, planners and engineers have to think outside of the box to create new urban spaces.

"What you find is that is that a lot of cities do grow up, and land become scarce. It becomes a premium, so you have to look for new and creative opportunities in order to create spaces to have these new developments."

Entuitive is closely following the developments of the proposed Rail Deck Park that will span a section of rail lands between Blue Jays Way and Bathurst Street, creating a 10.5 hectare city park above the railways.

The company engineered a similar project at Manhattan's Hudson Yards; a rail deck covering the 500-foot-long area of land owned by Brookfield developments that runs into Penn Station.

"There's the opportunity to change the city and to really bring it to the next step. You're actually creating land where it doesn't exist right now." says Moschino.

BILD

Renovation grants provided at different levels of government

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

There are numerous grants available to homeowners in the GTA to make their renovations easier financially.

Programs are offered by different levels of government and partner organisations and range from a few hundred dollars to several thousands.

If you own a home in the City of Toronto, you can take advantage of a number of programs to reduce the cost of your renovation.

One such incentive is the Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program, in which owners of single-family, duplex and triplex residential homes may receive a financial subsidy of up to $3,400 per property to install flood protection devices.

Another home renovation savings initiative offered by the City of Toronto is the Home Energy Loan Program (HELP), which assists homeowners in improving their home's energy efficiency.

Through Toronto Hydro, HELP provides incentives of up to $650 for replacing furnaces and air conditioners with high-efficiency units.

To apply for any of the renovation savings programs offered by the City of Toronto, visit toronto.ca and type the program's name into the search bar.

The Ontario government also offers a number of home renovation incentives, including the Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit. If you are over 65 and are planning a renovation to make your home safer and more accessible, you can claim up to $10,000 worth of eligible home improvements on your tax return. For more information, search for Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit at ontario.ca.

Talk to your renovator if you are thinking of applying for any government renovation programs or incentives. Professional renovators can help you better understand the program, let you know if you are eligible and walk you through the application process.

One of the advantages of working with professional renovators is that you can benefit from their knowledge and experience. Take that into consideration when hiring your renovator and be sure to ask lots of questions.

For a list of professional renovators in the GTA, visit renomark.ca. All renovators and trade contractors you will find abide by a renovation-specific Code of Conduct that includes things like providing a written contract, offering a minimum $2 million in liability insurance and providing two years warranty on all work.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

MEET THE CONDO

Boutique in South Rosedale

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Circa's 3 Markdale sits at the edge of an established residential community in the south Forest Hill neighbourhood by the Cedarvale Ravine. Six condo suites have just been released, plus the new two-storey, three-bedroom penthouse suite collection.

In the neighbourhood

This family-friendly neighbourhood has a number of schools nearby, as well as wide selection of restaurants, shops and services. Recreation options include the Forest Hill Tennis Club, the Brown Community Centre, Cedarvale Park and Sir Winston Churchill Park.

Location and transit

Located in the highly coveted Cedarvale neighbourhood, residents will have access to TTC bus routes and the St. Clair West LRT, as well as the Eglinton West subway platform nearby, which gets you into the downtown core within 20 minutes.

Housing amenities

The units feature Scavolini custom designed kitchen cabinetry, stainless steel appliances, including a Bertazzoni natural gas range, ceramic and stone or quartz bathroom finishes, deep soaker tub, solid core wood doors and a sliding door to the balcony or terrace.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

+ NEED TO KNOW

What: Circa - 3 Markdale
Builder: Circa - 3 Markdale LP
Architect: KFA Architects and Planners Inc.
Interiors: Mazen Studio
Location: 3 Markdale Ave.
Building: A six-unit boutique building
Sizes: From 1,000 to 2,400 sq. ft.
Pricing: From the upper $700,000s
Suites: Two-bedroom and three-bedroom units, and two-storey penthouses on upper levels
Status: Pre-construction, registration phase
Sales Centre: PSR Brokerage, 101-672 Dupont St.
Hours: By appointment
Phone: 416-360-0688
Website: circabuilt.com/3-markdale
Email: info@circabuilt.com

LEGAL MATTERS

One more hoop to jump through

If your mortgage is still showing on title after your debt has been paid off, you might need to talk to your lawyer. ISTOCK

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

Q: I bought my home several years ago and was fortunate enough to be able to pay my mortgage out a few years later. I received a letter from my bank confirming that the mortgage was fully paid. I thought that was the end of it. Last week I went into my bank to get a line of credit and my banking officer noted that the mortgage still showed on title. She indicated that I should follow up with my lawyer who may not have registered the discharge. I reached out to my lawyer who assisted me with the initial purchase to enquire why the mortgage was still on title. What can I do?

A: The reality is that even though the debt is fully paid out, doesn't mean it automatically get ruled off title. You would have received a letter that either instructed you to make sure you engage with your lawyer to have the charge removed from title or more often now, the bank has gone ahead and registered the discharge for you (a copy of the registered discharge would be included). Your lawyer will state a charge for drafting and registering this document on title. One way of the other, you have to make sure this charge is off title: paying it out doesn't ensure this.

Just one more hoop to jump through.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 NEW SALES CENTRE

West Queen West: Epic condominiums has just opened their new sales centre at the building site, with 10 new model suites to show. Head over to 48 Abell St., in the West Queen West neighbourhood. Contact: 647-347-6680, pureplaza.com

2 OPEN HOUSE

Lakeshore: Here's a three-bedroom, three-bathroom townhouse being shown this weekend near the Lake Shore. Check it out at 8 Windermere Ave., Unit 16 on Dec. 3 and 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. Contact: Andrew Ipekian, Keller Williams Referred Urban Realty, Brokerage. 416-572-1016

3 NOW REGISTERING

Regent Park: The Wyatt condominiums are coming soon to the revitalized Regent Park Neighbourhood. Register online or visit the sales centre at 500 Dundas St. E. Contact: 416-955-0559, danielswyatt.com

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

metro SPORTS

The Canadian Olympic Committee has partnered with the creative agency that developed the Toronto Raptors' "We The North" campaign

Classic night by lakeshore sees Reds through to final

MLS CUP PLAYOFFS

TFC to host title match after history-making win over rivals

Substitutes Benoit Cheyrou and Tosaint Ricketts scored two minutes apart in extra time to send Toronto FC to the MLS Cup final with a 5-2 win on the night and a wild 7-5 aggregate victory over the Montreal Impact.

It took extra time and 12 goals to decide a scintillating two-legged Eastern Conference final. Toronto will host the Seattle Sounders on Dec. 10 in the MLS championship game, becoming the first Canadian team to go for the title.

SECOND LEG In Toronto

5 TORONTO F.C. — 2 IMPACT MONTREAL

TFC WINS 7-5 ON AGGREGATE

Toronto trailed 3-2 after Game 1 in Montreal and had to come back the hard way after the Impact scored first. And when Toronto responded, Montreal came back in a heavyweight battle on Wednesday night played out in the rain before a BMO Field record crowd of 36,000.

Only once before in MLS playoff history had a club trailed by as many as three goals in a two-legged aggregate series and come back to win the tie. The San Jose Earthquakes were down 4-0 in 2003 before rallying to defeat the Los Angeles Galaxy 5-4.

Tied 5-5 on aggregate, Cheyrou scored on a header in the 98th minute, just one minute after entering the game, when he knocked in a Steven Beitashour cross. Then Jozy Altidore outmuscled a couple of defenders to send in a cross that Ricketts, beating two more defenders to the ball, swept in.

The Toronto FC faithful, who had been rained on most of the night, started chanting "This is our house."

The Toronto bench came flying onto the field after the final whistle to celebrate the historic win as confetti flew from the rafters. The players then went to celebrate in front of the south stand fans before the Eastern Conference cup presentation.

Dominic Oduro opened the scoring in the 24th minute for Montreal, a goal that meant Toronto had to score twice.

Armando Cooper and Altidore did just that before the first half was over, tying the aggregate score at 4-4 with an away goals edge to Toronto.

But Impact danger-man Ignacio Piatti made it 2-2 — and 5-4 on aggregate — in the 53rd minute after substitute Johan Venegas found him behind the defence. The ball bounced off either Piatti or defender Nick Hagglund, leaving Toronto fans to watch in pain as it trickled slowly into the net.

Hagglund restored order with a superb header in the 68th minute to make it 3-2 on the night and 5-5 on aggregate. It came off a short corner with Justin Morrow delivering the cross.

Ricketts had two late chances but tried to pass instead of shooting. Then his shot was blocked after a wonderful buildup by Sebastian Giovinco. Evan Bush then stopped Altidore at close range.

Giovinco limped off the field seven minutes into extra time after injuring his right leg taking a shot. He was replaced by Cheyrou. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto FC captain Michael Bradley lifts the MLS Eastern Conference championship trophy at BMO Field. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Baseball players, owners lock horns to reach CBA

A person familiar with the negotiations tells The Associated Press negotiators for baseball players and owners have a verbal agreement on a five-year labour contract.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday night because the sides were still putting the deal in writing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jones shoots out to 2-0 start at curling Canada Cup

Jennifer Jones and her Winnipeg team is off to a quick start at the Canada Cup after posting a pair of wins on the curling tournament's opening day.

The defending Olympic champion took the early lead atop the women's standings Wednesday after opening with a 9-4 win over Edmonton's Kelsey Rocque and following with a 6-4 victory over Tracy Fleury of Sudbury, Ont.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

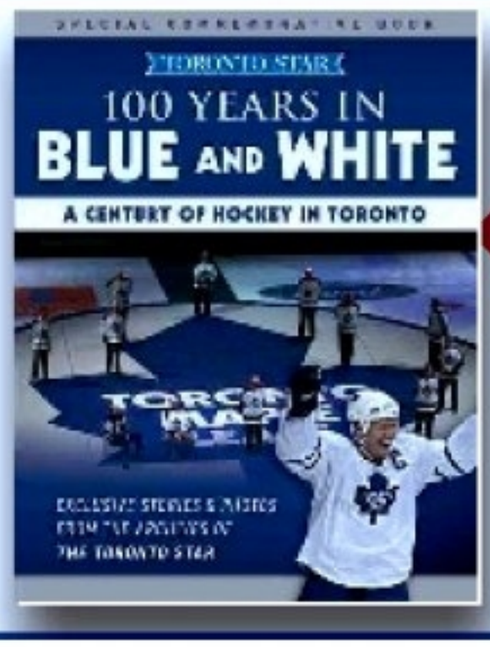
MMA stars engage in fight for equity

Former UFC champion Georges St-Pierre and other star fighters have launched the Mixed Martial Arts Athletes Association to protect UFC fighters and help get them their fair share of the sport's revenue.

The fighter-run association is not a union, with Rebney saying its power will come from the star quality of its members.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANADA'S GAME. TORONTO'S TEAM.



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Now, with the groundbreaking step of forming a union, Canada's top players are looking to leave an even bigger legacy for sport: the possibility for women to make a good living out of soccer. That's something that has been far harder for female players than their male counterparts nationally and globally.

"The (veteran) players on our team have seen this progression of going from nothing to being able to earn somewhat of a decent living," said Diana Matheson, who was with the team that struggled in 2008 and then found success with Olympic bronze medals in 2012 and 2016.

"Now, we want it to be more stable for younger kids coming up so they know they can earn a living through soccer and not have to worry in the winter when the wages dry up and, hopefully, they don't still have to go live with their parents into their 30s like some of us have had to do," said the midfielder who stays with her parents in Oakville when she's not playing for Canada or her professional team, the Washington Spirit.

The Canadian Women's National Soccer Team Players' Association, which will be officially created at a meeting in Toronto on Thursday, is the culmination of years of work by the core of the current national team and pro bono lawyers James Bunting and Maureen Littlejohn of Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg.

It's believed to be first women's players' union in Canada and it will represent the national team in negotiations over compensation and playing conditions, similar to the NHL players' association in men's hockey.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada's Diana Matheson takes a selfie with fans after winning the bronze medal at the Rio Olympics in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in August.

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Fragrant One Pot Sweet Potato and Arugula Pasta

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The peppery arugula and woody rosemary are the perfect match for sweet potato in this dish designed for fall.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 500 grams penne pasta
- 8 cups baby arugula
- 1 sweet potato, diced into small cubes
- 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 shallot, cut into thinly sliced
- 1 sprig of rosemary
- 3 Tbsp of olive oil, plus 1 for garnish
- 1 Tbsp salt
- 6 cups water
- 1/2 cup grated Asiago or Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Combine penne, arugula, sweet potato, garlic, shallot, rosemary, 2 Tbsp oil, salt and water in a stock pot. Bring to boil over high heat. Cook, stirring pasta frequently, until pasta is cooked al dente and water is nearly evaporated, about 10 minutes.

2. Remove pot from heat and take out the rosemary stem. Stir in the last tablespoon of oil, cheese and season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve with another sprinkle of cheese.

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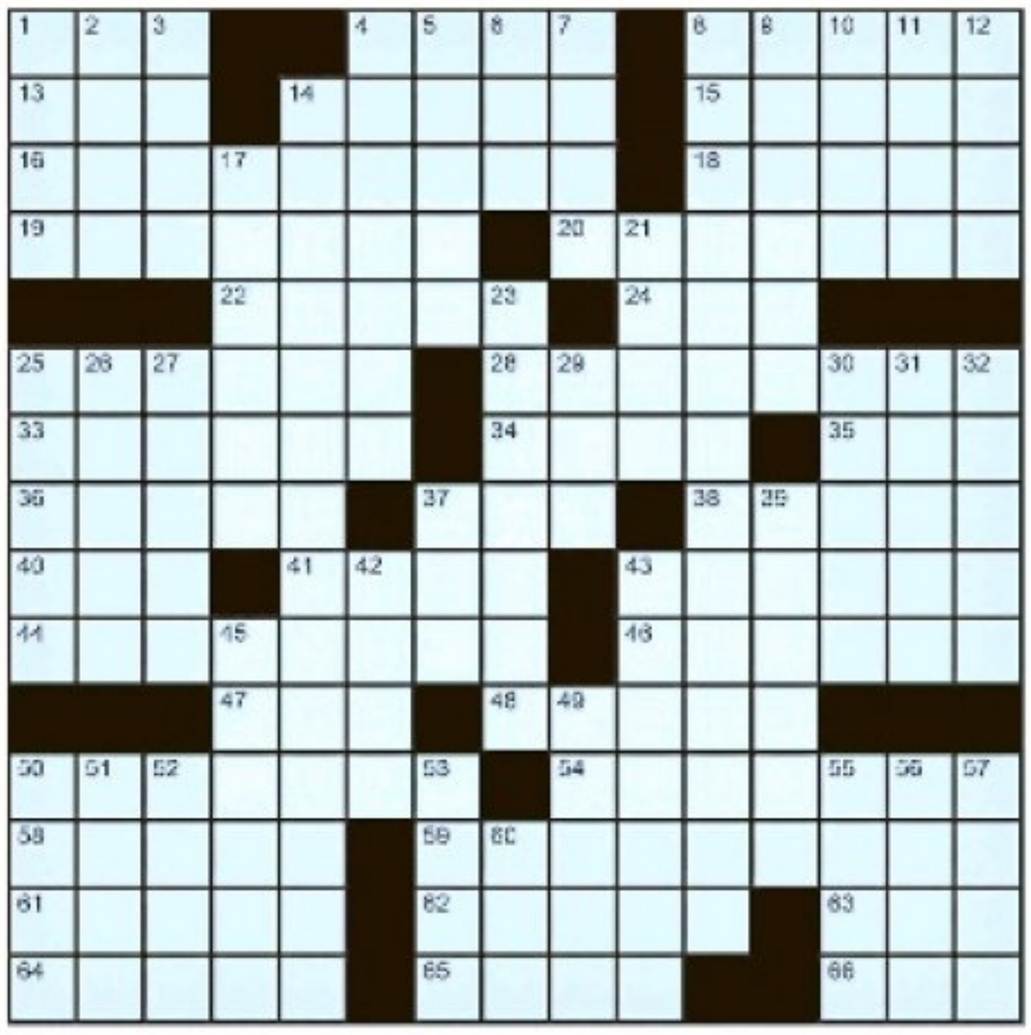
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. River for Calgary
4. Biblical land where Moses was buried
8. Reads 'em and does this
13. A famous Charlotte
14. H.H. __ (British author whose pen name was Saki)
15. Peculiarly
16. Alberta hamlet east of Edmonton
18. __-sized (Printer paper selection)
19. Main meaning
20. Canadian restaurant chain; or, Mr. Grammer's of "Frasier"
22. Fanatic sects
24. Sure-footed animal
25. Conniver's creation
28. NY, ME and CA, e.g.: 2 wds.
33. Guided
34. Mark Antony's love, to pals
35. "__ little teapot..."
36. Swiss-peaks related
37. Cavemen yrs.
38. Canadian ski legend Ms. Greene
40. Needs-to-be-sewn site
41. Spandau Ballet hit
43. Posh couch
44. Worker's wish: 2 wds.
46. Canyon communicator
47. Municipal council member, e.g.
48. Tractor company, John __
50. 1990s MTV personality Daisy
54. Ms. Newton of "The Pursuit of Happyness" (2006)
58. Soap actress Ms. Slezak
59. Powerview-__, __, Manitoba
61. Mr. Sedaka's
62. Not connected
63. Dixie Cups song, when doubled
64. Star Trek: Father of Mr. Spock
65. Rhinoplasty location
66. '_' __ in Xylophone

DOWN
1. Hillside
2. Rows
3. Gets hitched
4. Built like a bodybuilder
5. Commencement
6. 1920 T.S. Eliot volume of poetry, __ Vos Prec
7. Strike
8. Frankenstein creator formally, Mary __ Shelley (b.1797 - d.1851)
9. The ancient Turkish city of Urfa as it was known in Mesopotamia
10. The __ (U2 guitarist)
11. Dramatist's creation
12. Hockey Hall of Famer Mr. Apps'
14. Undertaking for the valiant: 2 wds.
17. Draw back
21. Naturalness
23. Deliver the goods
25. Piercing
26. Shakespeare: As You Like It role
27. Pharrell Williams' uplifting hit
29. John and Yoko's son ...his initials-sharers
30. Rio __ Alcan Planetarium (Montreal space attraction)
31. Ryan Seacrest, for one
32. Brit singer Leo
37. Greyhound vehicle
39. The Parthenon goddess
42. Roller Coaster, for example
43. "Hold on just one second and listen!": 2 wds.
45. Grate/bother
49. Sicily's volcano, and namesakes
50. Marshes
51. Carbamide
52. The Queen's cypher: letter + Roman Numeral + letter
53. Duration
55. Gladiator's 559
56. Ms. Gruning of "Casablanca" (1942)
57. Those, in Spanish
60. Company's stock mkt. debut

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a fabulous day to schmooze with others. Enjoy your interactions with groups and friends, as well as partners and those who are close to you. Laugh it up!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Today you make a great impression on bosses, parents, VIPs and anyone in a position of authority (including the police). Your ambition is strong, and so is your confidence.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Do whatever you can to take a vacation or find a change of scenery, because you need this. Today you want adventure, thrills and a chance to learn something new and exciting!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is an excellent day to discuss shared property, taxes, debt and inheritances, because quite likely you will end up laughing all the way to the bank.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your interactions with others are positive and dynamic today, primarily because you have lots of energy. Because enthusiasm is always contagious, people are pumped to be in your presence.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will get a lot done at work today because you are energetic, focused and upbeat. A happy mind that is ready to work is unstoppable!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Accept all invitations to party, because © 2016 King Features Syndicate, Inc. today is a wonderful, social day for you. Enjoy the arts, sports events, playful times with children and romantic liaisons.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Increased activity and chaos on the home front might be a challenge. However, today you have the energy to pull your act together at home. Do what you can.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will be successful in all your communication. This is great news for those of you who sell, market, teach, act or write for a living.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is a moneymaking day for you! Trust your moneymaking ideas. All of your financial negotiations will benefit you.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Fiery Mars is in your sign today, dancing with lucky Jupiter. This gives you lots of positive get up and go! It's a great day for athletics and outdoor activities.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Secret liaisons will be exciting today. (This includes private love affairs.) You're happy to work alone today.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			4	7		3		8
	6						4	
		3			9			5
7			8			2		
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8			6			7		
	3						9	
6		1		8	5			

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6	8	2	3	7	5	1	4	9
8	7	5	6	9	1	4	3	2
3	2	4	7	5	8	6	9	1
9	6	1	2	3	4	8	7	5
2	1	3	8	6	9	7	5	4
5	9	6	4	1	7	2	8	3
7	4	8	5	2	3	9	1	6

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